

BEST TEACHER

Sara Petersen Of Keene Middle School Honored To Be Named Best Teacher

"I'm so humbled. I didn't expect this," was Sara Petersen's response when she heard that the 2020 Best of Monadnock Readers' Choice polls awarded her "Best Teacher" in the Monadnock Region.

Petersen moved from Connecticut to the area in 2005 after receiving a job at Keene Middle School, which is now located on Maple Avenue in Keene.

"I was right out of college and fell in love with the community when I came to interview for the job."

Petersen was hired to teach English, but the department went through restructuring and she filled the position of reading teacher for 7th graders. She had been doing this job for 13 years up until this past year, when she became the reading teacher for 8th graders.

"It's so exciting to see the changes with the kids that I taught in 7th grade," she says. "I like to read and want to share my passion for reading."

Reading is an integral part of lifelong literacy and is part of all subjects and all instruction. A good reading teacher instills confidence, challenges the students, has strong work ethics, and is determined – all qualities that the students at Keene Middle School, as well as their parents, must have seen in Petersen.

Her goal: to give her students an opportunity to foster a love of lifelong reading. "I just really enjoy doing my job and am just so grateful to the community (for this recognition)," she adds.



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